

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
PCT
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 10256-006	FOR FURTHER ACTION		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below
International application No. PCT/CA2005/000162	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 09 February 2005 (09-02-2005)	(Earliest) Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 09 February 2004 (09-02-2004)	
Applicant UNIVERSITE DE MONTREAL ET AL			

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (see Box No. II).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box No. III).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows :

REÇU/RECEIVED

06 JUIN 2005

BCF S.E.N.C.R.L. / LLP

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the drawings,

- a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

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☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/CA2005/000162

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7): A61B 8/00, A61B 6/00, A61B 8/08, A61B 5/055, G06T 7/20

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC(7): A61B 8/00, A61B 6/00, A61B 8/08, A61B 5/055, G06T 7/20 (all subsections with combinations of keywords)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic database(s) consulted during the international search (name of database(s) and, where practicable, search terms used)

Canadian Patent Database, Esp@cenet, Delphion, Japanese Patent Office Abstracts, Google
(keywords: elastography, ultrasound, tissue, motion, tensor, strain, elasticity, and related terms)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No(s).
X	OPHIR, J. et al. Elastography: Ultrasonic Imaging of Tissue Strain and Elastic Modulus In Vivo. European Journal of Ultrasound., Vol. 3, 1996. Pages 49-70.	1-7, 28, 31-33, 44, 45
Y	[retrieved on 2005.04.22]. Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.uth.tmc.edu/schools/med/rad/elasto/journalarticles.htm#1996 >.	8-12, 14, 24-27, 29, 30, 34-43, 46
Y	US 6,508,768 B1 (HALL, T.J., ZHU, Y.) 21 January, 2003 (21.01.2003), columns 12 and 13.	12, 14, 34-43, 46
Y	US 2003/0799767 A1 (CESPEDES, E.I., MITCHLITSCH, K.J.) 23 October, 2003 (23.10.2003), paragraphs 1-9, 150, 159, Fig 8A.	24-27, 30, 40, 43
Y	MAURICE, R.L. et al: Non-invasive Elasticity Imaging in Small Vessels: Experiments on Tissue-Mimicking Phantoms., 2003 IEEE International Ultrasonic Symposium, October 5-8, 2003, Session P3D, page 409. [retrieved on 2005.05.13]. Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.ieee.org/2003/hawii03/03ultrasonicsTOC.htm >.	8-11, 14, 29, 37-39

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

13 May 2005 (13-05-2005)

Date of mailing of the international search report

02 June 2005 (02-06-2005)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/CA
Canadian Intellectual Property Office
Place du Portage I, C114 - 1st Floor, Box PCT
50 Victoria Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0C9
Facsimile No.: 001(819)953-2476

Authorized officer

Paul Reid (819) 934-5141

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/CA2005/00016

Patent Document Cited in Search Report	Publication Date	Patent Family Member(s)	Publication Date
US6508768	21-01-2003	US6508768 B1	21-01-2003
US2003199767	23-10-2003	AU2003221989 A1	03-11-2003
		AU2003221990 A1	03-11-2003
		US2003199747 A1	23-10-2003
		US2003199767 A1	23-10-2003
		US2003199768 A1	23-10-2003
		US2003236443 A1	25-12-2003
		WO03088816 A2	30-10-2003
		WO03088817 A2	30-10-2003